

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 995

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5987

FOR EAGLEBURGER AND CONNOLLY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, APER, LE

SUBJECT: MEASURES TO IMPROVE MORALE AND SECURITY AT THIS EMBASSY

REF: BEIRUT 5853

1. SUMMARY: IN ORDER TO EASE BURDENS, TENSIONS AND DEPRIVATIONS EXPERIENCED BY EMBASSY STAFF HERE, WE HAVE CONSOLIDATED OFFICES; ESTABLISHED CENTRAL MESS; CREATED MORE LIVING QUARTERS IN CHANCERY; RELOCATED THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE CLOSER TO EMBASSY; AND SET UP REGULAR MOVIE SCHEDULE, PLUS COMMUNITY LOUNGE. END SUMMARY

2. INTRODUCTION: WITHIN THE NEXT 3 TO 4 WEEKS ALL LONGTIMERS AT THIS EMBASSY WILL HAVE DEPARTED AND WE WILL FIELD A NEW TEAM WHOSE FRESHNESS AND FULL AWARENESS OF WHAT THEY ARE GETTING INTO SHOULD HELP SUSTAIN A HIGHER LEVEL OF MORALE. BUT TO EASE THEIR BURDENS (LONG HOURS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK), TENSIONS (A WAR GOING ON AROUND US) AND DEPRIVATIONS (NO ELECTRICITY OR WATER OUTSIDE THE CHANCERY AND NO TELEPHONES), WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN FOLLOWING MEASURES:

3. CONSOLIDATION OF OFFICES: PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL, THE AMERICAN OFFICES HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY MOVED WITHIN THE CHANCERY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR MAXIMUM SECURITY. AS A RESULT, OFFICES WERE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THIS RELATIVELY LARGE CHANCERY AND INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION WAS A PROBLEM. DURING THIS PAST WEEK, WE HAVE RELOCATED MOST OF PURELY AMERICAN OFFICES ON THE 4TH FLOOR OF THE CHANCERY AND ARE TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO MAKE

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THIS AREA AS SECURE AS POSSIBLE. THE ONLY AMERICANS WORKING

OFF THIS FLOOR WILL BE C&R AND TCU ON THE 6TH FLOOR WITHIN A VAULT AREA AND THE ACTING PAO, CONSULAR OFFICERS, GSO AND BUDGET OFFICER, WHO WILL WORK ON THE LOWER FLOORS. IT IS NECESSARY FOR THESE OFFICERS TO BE LOCATED ON THE LOWER FLOORS BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF LOCALS WHICH THEY MUST SUPERVISE DIRECTLY.

4. EATING FACILITIES: AT THE TIME WE ARRIVED, THE EMBASSY SNACK BAR HAD COMMENCED SERVING LUNCH AND DINNER FOR THE STAFF. IN THE LAST WEEK, WE HAVE EXPANDED THIS INTO A 3-MEAL-A-DAY RESTAURANT AND AN INCREASING NUMBER OF THE STAFF IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS FACILITY. BY SUPPLEMENTING FROM THE COMMISSARY, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE MEALS ALTHOUGH THE MENU TENDS TO BE SOMEWHAT MONOTOONOUS. WE HAVE HIRED A SECOND FULL-TIME COOK AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF WORKING OUT SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WHICH TEND TO FRUSTRATE OUR MAKING THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT WE WANT TO MAKE.

5. CONSOLIDATION OF HOUSING: AFTER REVIEWING THE SECURITY SITUATION CAREFULLY WITH OUR SECURITY OFFICERS, WE HAVE EMBARKED ON AN EXTENSIVE RELOCATION OF STAFF HOUSING TO GET EVERYONE EITHER IN THE CHANCERY OR AS CLOSE BY AS POSSIBLE. COL. HUNT, SMITH, WATEYMANS AND O'CONNELLS HAVE ALREADY MOVED TO TWO BUILDINGS IN CLOSER PROXIMITY TO THE CHANCERY. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT SECURITY IS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THOSE LIVING IN THESE (DURAFFOURD AND EL DORADO) BUILDINGS, ONE AND THREE BLOCKS RESPECTIVELY FROM EMBASSY. RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE CHANCERY, AND AT THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE AVERAGING ONE NEW APARTMENT EVERY DAY AND A HALF. AT THE PRESENT TIME I AM LIVING IN THE CHANCERY (CERTAINLY AS LONG AS DURAFFOURD BUILDING HAS NO WATER OR ELECTRICITY\*) AS IS RAY HUNT, TWO SY PERSONNEL (ROBINSON AND MCCARTHY), DAO OWEN, GSO WALSH, POL SIZER, CONS BUDEIT, NCOIC WAINWRIGHT, C&R GRAHAM AND ALL 9 MARINES. WE EXPECT THAT FUTURE ARRIVALS WILL MOVE DIRECTLY INTO THE CHANCERY, AS WILL MR. AND MRS. O'BRIEN. SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE SUITES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. WHILE WE ARE NOT FORCING STAFF MEMBERS TO MOVE INTO THE CHANCERY, I BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST MOST OF THE SINGLE PEOPLE WILL SEEK ACCOMMODATIONS HERE NOT ONLY FOR SECURITY

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REASONS BUT BECAUSE THE CHANCERY HAS LIMITED POTABLE WATER, ADEQUATE BRACKISH WATER FOR SANITATION AND SOME ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED FROM THE EMBASSY GENERATORS. APARTMENTS TEMPORARILY VACATED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PLAN WILL BE RETAINED FOR USE DURING QUIET PERIODS. IN SUM, I HOPE THAT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WE WILL HAVE ALL OF THE AMERICAN STAFF HOUSED EITHER IN THE CHANCERY OR IN THE TWO APARTMENT BUILDINGS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

6. ENTERTAINMENT: AS YOU KNOW, WE BROUGHT 6 NEW MOVIES WITH US AND THE EMBASSY ALREADY HAD A NUMBER OF FILMS ON HAND. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO SHOW THESE MOVIES LATE IN THE AFTERNOON AND IN THE EARLY EVENING. WITHIN THE NEXT 2 WEEKS WE EXPECT TO HAVE A STAFF LOUNGE SET UP SO THAT THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED CAN, IF THEY WISH, PLAY CARDS AND SOCIALIZE. UNFORTUNATELY, UP TILL NOW MOST OF THE STAFF HAS WORKED SUCH LONG HOURS THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE THEIR TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THESE FACILITIES BUT WE HOPE TO EXPAND THE OPPORTUNITIES.

7. DEPARTMENT ACTION REQUESTED: TO FURTHER INSURE HIGH MORALE, WE URGE ONCE AGAIN THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHORTEN TOURS AND, WHERE DESIRABLE IN SOME CASES, ARRANGE 3-MONTH TDY'S.  
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